

GET CONNECTED!

TIPS AND TOOLS TO GET AND STAY CONNECTED

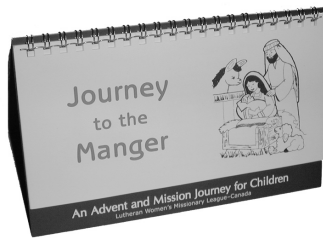
www.lutheranwomen.ca

Special Edition, October 2009

Info bytes for your use

Changes to Get Connected!

Beginning with this special edition of *Get Connected!* this newsletter for leaders will be distributed between issues of *Tapestry*. The main reason is to provide more timely information by spreading out the distribution of these two means of getting that information to LWML-Canada members.



Sharing the Good News

If your Sunday school is looking for a new project to support you might suggest this one...you might even offer to match the funds they raise for it.

Many Sunday schools ordered and used the Advent calendar, Journey to the Manger but there are some left. Sponsorship of \$2 each could send them to children in the mission field. Or a quantity could be purchased for the same price and used during outreach efforts in your own community. Order them from the Resource Centre at 1-888-596-5226 or resourcecentre@lutheranwomen.ca.

Tapestry: audio & large print

Don't always have time to read *Tapestry*? Spend lots of time in your car? Consider ordering an audio version on CD to use during your commute. Order it in addition to the print version so you still get all the great pictures and have the Bible studies and other information in print. At present the cost of a CD subscription is the same as the print version, only \$8 a year for four issues. *Tapestry* is also available in large print.

Order info: Send order and payment for large print or audio (\$8/year) to Financial Secretary, Gloria Meyer, Box 658, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0. If you have questions or changes regarding your subscription, contact circulation manager Darla Hennig, 1312 80th Street S.W., Edmonton, AB T6X 1H4, 780-339-3733, datamanager@lutheranwomen.ca.

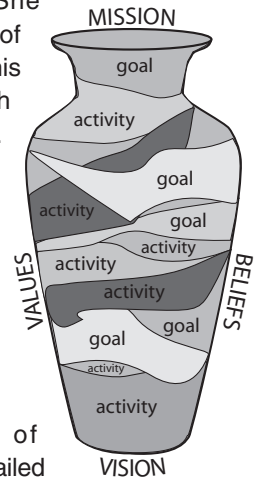
The Resource Centre

Many new items were introduced at the convention in Ottawa. Catalogues are available online, by e-mail or in hard copy. Even better...order one of each new item to show everyone and then take orders. Sell the items ordered and, with nothing to return, the only cost to you will be shipping and handling to receive the order. A win-win situation for your members and LWML-Canada

Mission and vision statements re-written

Could you remember our mission statement and share it with someone? Neither could anyone else. In the Winter issue of *Tapestry* (page 12) our president, Judy Grande, invites you to make the mission, vision and goals of LWML-Canada those of your society and of each member. She

illustrates some of her points with this vase filled with coloured sand... similar to the one the young women filled at convention as they shared their hopes and dreams for LWML-Canada.



This issue of *Tapestry* will be mailed in early November.

Tapestry in French

In the Winter issue of *Tapestry* one Bible study will be repeated in French. That study, plus two other articles from the magazine, also in French, will be made available online at www.lutheranwomen.ca. Please tell others about this service to those whose first language is French. We thank an LWMLC member from Quebec for translation and one of our LCC pastors for doctrinal review.

LWML-Canada CALENDAR – 2010

March: General Council meeting
 April 30-May 1: Laurentian District convention, Ottawa, "Reach Out"
 June 10-12: Ontario District convention, Sarnia, Ont., "I AM: the bridge – generation to generation"
 June 11-13: Manitoba & Saskatchewan District convention, Moose Jaw, Sask.,

"The Healing Waters of Christ"
 July 8-10: Alberta-British Columbia District convention, Kelowna, B.C., "I Am the Vine"
 September 16-17: Ontario Sonset District convention, Dryden, Ont., "According to God's Good Pleasure"
 October 3: LWML-Canada Sunday

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More tips & tools at www.lutheranwomen.ca

Judy's Jottings

The Road to the Mission Field – be faithful!

“To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak” (Ephesians 6:18b-20).

In July we began another journey... and put into place the mission grants for the 2009-2012 triennium. Regardless of whether you attended the LWML-Canada 7th national convention in Ottawa, served as a delegate or guest, or remained at home, you still took part in the process of selecting these mission grants. Did you send suggestions to your delegate on how to vote, or did you allow and trust them to use their own discretion? Either way, the zone delegates and voting members of LWMLC General Council were representing all of us.

It's now the responsibility of each member of LWML-Canada to support these grants with our mites and prayers. Mites are the “extra” offerings of love given over and above our tithe to our congregations. God has so richly blessed us and given us enough that we can share, and you have done that generously in the past. Continue to ask God's blessings and guidance as you contribute your offerings for mission work through LWML-Canada. Offer your prayers for each grant, asking God to guide and support the work He has put into place.

- Pray for the givers and receivers of these mission grants.
- Pray that finances are in place when needed.
- Pray for each missionary in Canada

and abroad that they may speak boldly and proclaim the mystery of the gospel.

- Pray that the hearts of listeners will be open to hear the Good News of Salvation.
- Pray for physical and spiritual health for each person involved in the mission projects.
- Pray that God receives honour and glory.

As leaders we also support our mission grants as we carry out our responsibility, keeping our members informed of the progress of work of each grant. Our Vice President, Christian Mission will, through *Tapestry, Get Connected!*, the website and LWMLC Updates, tell us each time a grant has received funds. She will pass on reports and stories of the mission workers involved in each project and the people they touch with Gospel of Jesus Christ. Share these reports and stories with those under your leadership. This knowledge will guide as we pray and it will encourage us to drop another coin into our mite box.

The road to the mission field began as Christ walked to the Cross and gave His life that we might have a more abundant life today and an eternal life in heaven. The road is also a personal journey as He calls us to be faithful witnesses in our actions and words. Hearing of the courage and zeal of mission workers at home and in the mission fields can encourage us to tell the Good News to our family, friends and neighbours. In His Word, God gives us the message to share and through His Holy Spirit gives us wisdom and courage each step of the way. Together we walk the road, supporting our mission grants, and watching for opportunities at home to

share God's love through Jesus, our Lord and our Saviour.

“Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples! For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and He is to be held in awe above all gods” (1 Chronicles 16:23-25).

Grace and Peace in Christ,
Judy,
President, LWML-Canada

Survey provides insight for all levels of LWML-Canada

The purpose of surveying LWMLC members, women of the church who are not members, and members of the clergy, conducted at the beginning of 2009 was to help all of us learn how to invite, encourage and include other women in the mission of LWML-Canada. Many of the answers not only were helpful to the General Council's planning for the future, but will also help our societies and zones as they make their plans.

It is important that all levels of the League put into action what has been learned. Societies are also strongly encouraged to share the results beyond their membership. At the very least, please post the following pages. The women and pastors who provided input will want to know what was learned and will be watching to see if it is reflected in future activities, in congregations and elsewhere.

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Survey Summary

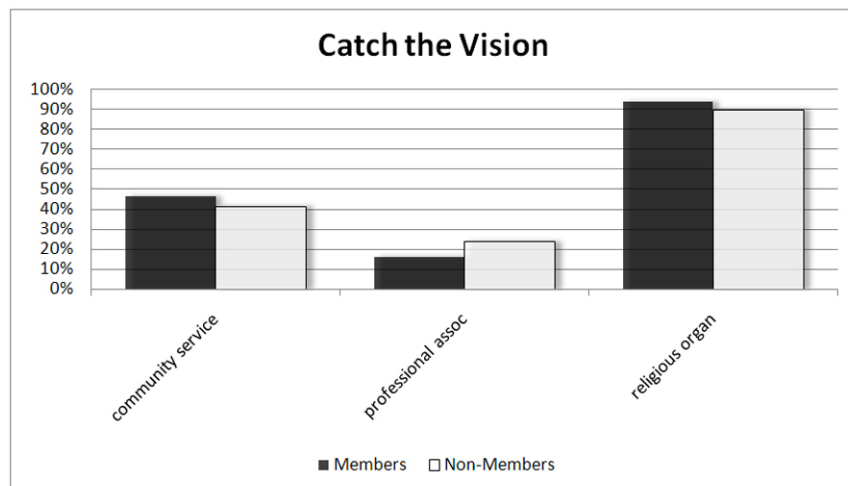
Many in LWML–Canada have noticed the decline in membership over the past number of years and are asking how we can attract young, active women to serve alongside us. LWML–Canada Ad-Hoc Image Committee conducted a survey to discover the answer. A total of 655 people completed the survey; members, non-members, and clergy. After analyzing the data, we present some conclusions to equip each society and each member with the tools to motivate and encourage women of all ages and interests in their congregations to grow and serve their Lord, as we all share God’s Son with those who do not know Him.

Life for women has changed much since the LWML came to Canada in the early fifties. At that time, women stayed at home, raised the children and maintained the household. Very few worked outside the home. They had the flexibility during the day while the children were at school to attend meetings and work at the church, the centre of the social network for most. Children played outside in the neighbourhood with their friends in unstructured play. Today, many women work outside of the home. When they come home, they often rush to prepare dinner before driving children to structured team sports. Today’s woman is concerned about time. There is never enough of it to accomplish all they need or want to do.

And yet, this survey confirms these women who are not members of their LWMLC society have a desire to serve their Lord too. The number one answer to the question, “With what kind of groups are you affiliated,” is “religious organizations.”

Note: “members” and “non-members” refers to membership in LWMLC. “Non-members” include LCC women who are not members of LWMLC.

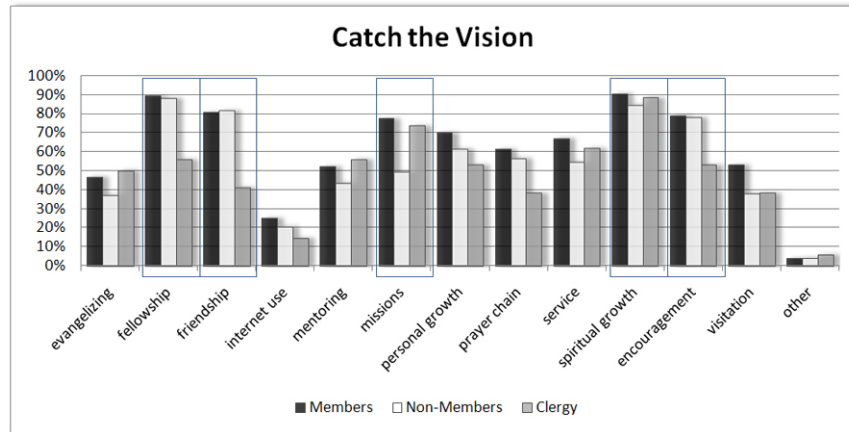
With what kind of groups are you affiliated? Choose all that apply.



Of the community organizations where non-member women are involved, one quarter of them involve compassion ministries – breast cancer groups, children’s hospitals, and grief therapy groups. Like LWMLC members, these women have a heart for those who are hurting.

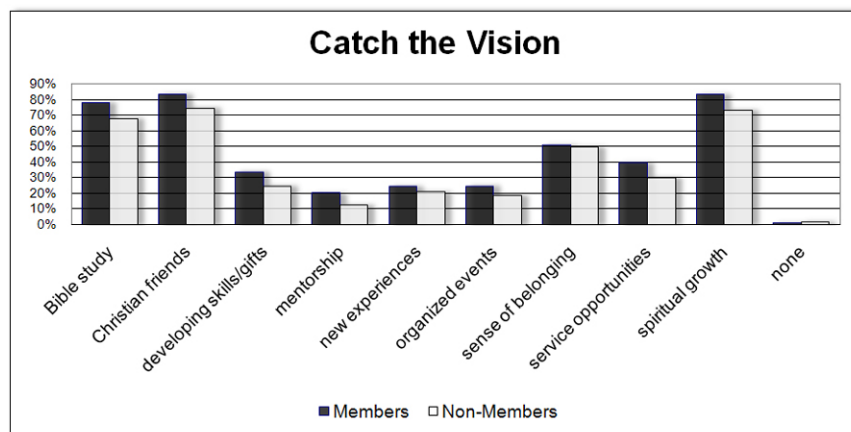
What else are non-member women looking for in an organization they would serve? To them, important elements include fellowship, spiritual growth, friendship, encouragement, and missions. They want to serve where they can make a difference (missions), they want to grow spiritually, they want to receive and dispense encouragement to other women, and they want friendship.

Imagine you could start a woman’s group from scratch. What components would you include?



What do you feel are your current needs?

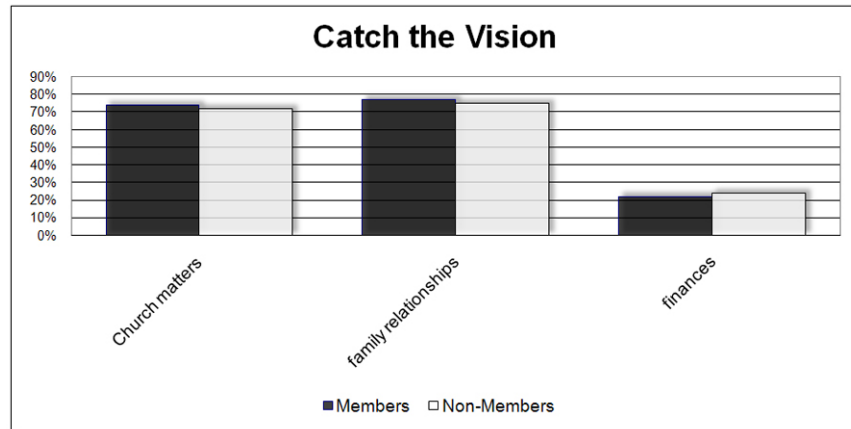
Bible study is very important to these women, just as it has also been expressed as an important need among members. They want to learn about their faith. They want to learn how to respond to secular issues from a Christian perspective. They want to learn how to be better parents, and how to witness to their faith in the world.



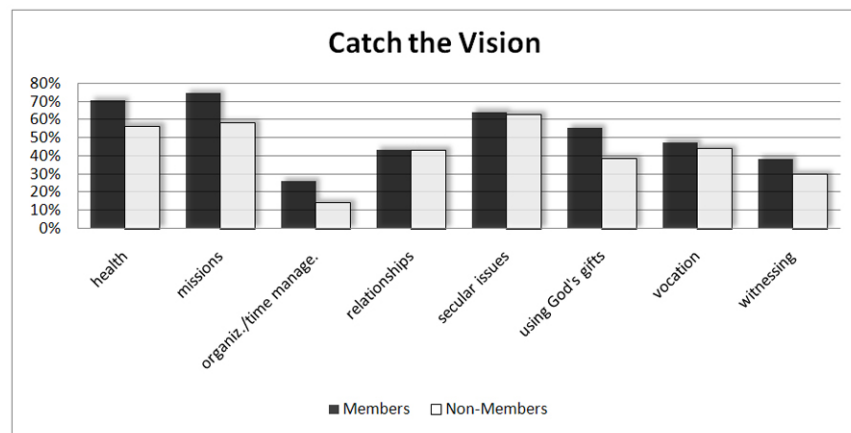
What topics/speakers would interest you?

Some of the topics suggested by non members include a new Christians class, a presentation on the AIDS situation in Africa, street people in Canada, homosexuality, and stewardship – including good

stewardship of our health. Presentations on missions, both local and distant, would be of interest, as well as learning to reach out to others, sharing our faith.



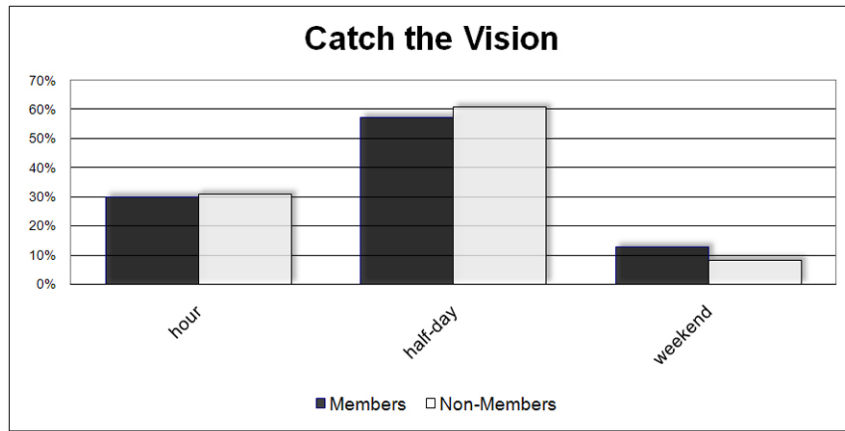
What type of specific interest sessions/programs would you find useful?



Given this expressed need, those societies not currently including Bible study in their meetings may want to consider doing so. It appears that regular Bible study would encourage attendance from other women of the congregation. Possibly adding other Bible study groups at different times would also offer women more opportunity to attend one that fits their schedule.

And, although prudent use of their time is extremely important, the need to grow spiritually is important enough to them that, according to the responses, non-member women would attend a seminar of a couple hours in length on a topic of interest. If a knowledgeable speaker were to conduct it, the motivation to attend would be even greater. Maybe you could ask the women of your congregation which topics would be of interest to them.

What length of time would you spend at such an event?

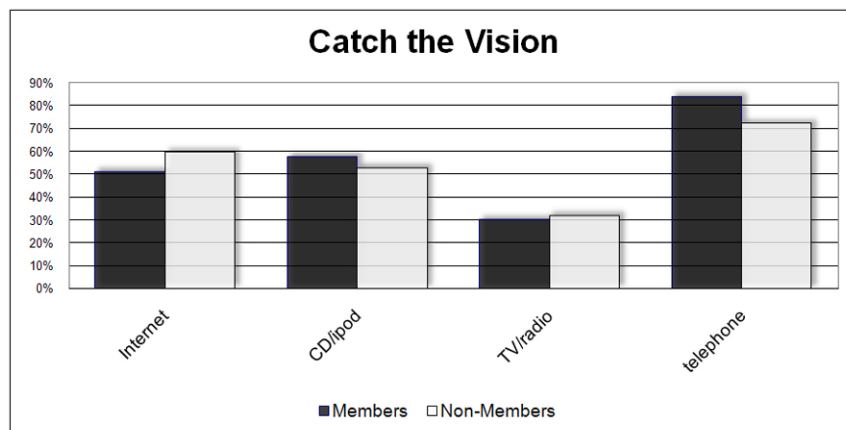


Many members have been concerned that the lion’s-share of the “service” is still being done by the long-time members of LWMLC, and the younger women show no interest in “taking over the project.” Based on the survey, there are several ways a society can change this trend. The first is to simply invite individual women to help. You would be amazed how far an invitation will go. For example, in some congregations society members have been doing things like preparing communion for years. But someone at some point showed them how to do it. Now we can train the “next generation.” If they say “no” to that project, ask them how they would like to serve. What would interest them?

Secondly, because of the time constraints on women today, survey results indicate the need to consider setting a short obligation time for any project. If you plan to have a speaker conduct a Bible study on a topic of interest, ask a non-member woman to help you, letting them know the commitment is only for that project.

And, thirdly, mentor a woman. Be her friend. Reach out and show younger women that relationship and friendship are part of the LWMLC experience. Share with her your wisdom and experience. Leaders are “grown” as they learn the projects your society does within your church. Women today have learned organizational skills in the workplace that can help a society tremendously. A higher percentage of non-member women belong to professional associations, learning other skills useful to a society. They can teach you too. Tap into that resource by tapping a non-member woman on the shoulder and asking for her help.

For those physically unable to attend women’s group functions in their congregations, what alternate ways could fellowship/connection be provided?

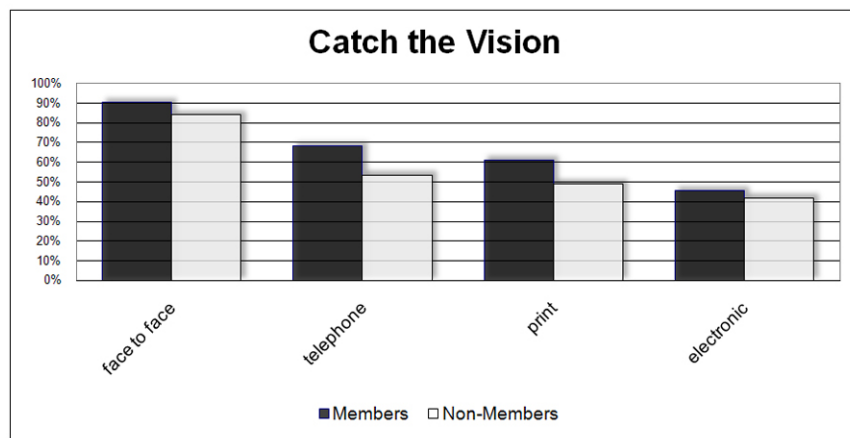


Some interesting suggestions were made in response to this question. Both member and non-member women suggested visiting the women unable to attend meetings, and both suggested taking the meeting to their home. A few responses touched on the use of technology such as webcams or podcasts to allow those who cannot attend to view the events on the internet simultaneously, or view a recording at a time convenient to them.

Although we mainly think of those unable to attend as being shut-in or women with physical limitations, there are mothers with small children, women who travel for their careers, or those who travel great distances to attend any church function to be considered also. An e-society could be formed on the internet or a social networking site. Giving them a mission project to do at home would offer yet another level of flexibility. These women could benefit from such alternate forms of fellowship and connection, and the society would benefit too.

Did you know that non-member women want to communicate the same way as those inside the society – face to face, wherever possible? By their responses, LWMLC members seem concerned they don't know the computer, and therefore, have nothing in common with younger women. Although that may be true regarding the ability to use a computer, sometimes younger women come home from work and don't want to look at the computer again until they have to. They have been dealing with technology all day, and want some human contact – some face-to-face communications.

What methods of communication do you prefer?



LWMLC has many resources available. Many Bible studies can be found in the catalogue, not to mention those provided every quarter in *Tapestry*. Consider how your society conducts its meetings, the projects it does, and the ways it serves the congregation. It is important to build up the women of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC), whether they are members of LWMLC or not. It is not as important to “recruit” members for LWMLC as it is to build up the spiritual life of women. From there, the motivation will come to serve, and then possibly to become members of LWMLC because they see opportunity to grow spiritually, to build friendships, and to serve those in need around the world alongside those who have served in this way for many years.

May God bless your work and give you guidance and courage as you think about how to reach out to all the women of the LCC.

Summary compiled by Kathy Birkett, LWMLC–Canada Communication Team

Some thoughts and ideas from the survey

Comments from those who responded to the survey provide a rich source of ideas and understanding. One of the last questions was: Are there other ways in which the society can support the mission of the congregation? We provide a portion of the responses for you to consider.

MEMBERS

- Look at the “red hat society” who are a group of ladies 50 and over—what they do looks so interesting. Can we be interesting, too?

- Team up with other groups in the congregation.

- I think mentoring young women is a huge opportunity for LWMLC.

- Reaching Out!!! Perhaps this also means that when we have an event to which we invite our friends, we stop whining about no younger women coming and stop whining about having no one to fill our positions. This is embarrassing and makes the newcomer feel very uncomfortable.

- Make and give supplies like quilts for area fire victims.

- Have a Sunday luncheon to honour the newly-elected Church Council members and families.

- Have different groups of ladies (with different interests, different time schedules) meeting separately, but under on big church umbrella called LWMLC.

- Our niche is women. As women we have so many issues and so many unique concerns. We need to reach out to all women...like the twice-divorced lady, the girl with the purple hair, and the 14-year-old mother!

- I've been an active member just over 40 years. I've worked hard in many positions and presently serve as a chairman in my society. It's been such a source of joy and peace...serving the Lord and the mission of our church through my beloved LWMLC. We will go on! Let's just not overdo the methods. Personal outreach and follow-up with the help of God through prayer, is the best way.

- I think if you give each woman in the congregation one job suited to their age, time and ability, you'd build up the “body.” LWMLC could organize and

encourage. Don't make the job a life-time commitment. Make some jobs short-term. Help each worker see the need of their little job in the big picture. Thank publicly and privately. Wouldn't require joining or going to meetings for most workers. They'd feel involved, needed and blessed.

- I'd like indepth Bible study— a whole book, verse by verse.

- Sponsor a non-member so she can attend a convention.

- Since LWMLC is uniquely positioned to reach and serve women, here are some ways we might refocus what we do.

- intentionally provide Bible studies written by women for women

- provide an annual bursary to a female student in a church work program to help them gain experience

- encourage girls in your congregation to consider full-time church work

- in societies encourage each member to reach out to individual women who have “heavy hearts” as a replacement for some of the activities organized for groups of women

- support the organizing of intergenerational activities; encourage teens and young women to take a turn in planning and carrying out such activities. We, as society members, need to learn to say, “We could use your help. Would you...?”

- do lots more online for women; it's not leaving out those who aren't online, it's expanding to include those who are.

NON-MEMBERS

- Include all women.

- The group in my church organizes fellowship activities: congregational birthday parties, women's social gatherings, etc.

- Reach out to women of all ages. I am 32, but didn't realize the extent to which the LWMLC society supports women/families.

- Be positive and happy in what they are doing.

- In my church, more visits to hospitals and shut-ins would be amazing and a help to a busy pastor.

- Less focus on themselves and more focus on the congregation.

Fellowship events are a good thing to build relationships, but not at the cost of doing good service and outreach to the congregation and the community.

- Being more active in the greater community.

- Be aware of women's struggles and needs around the world.

- The LWMLC group in our congregation is somewhat remote and unconnected with activities and functions. I think more events that engage the congregation and LWMLC members would be helpful, e.g., a dinner for confirmands and their families. I would like to see a role for the LWMLC as a stronger partner in the life of my congregation.

- This is an excellent survey and I hope there is good response.

- I no longer attend LWMLC meetings. Sitting over four hours is too long.

PASTORS

- Draw in younger women by providing support/materials pertaining to children, family, balancing busy lives and provide manageable projects through the congregation.

- Explore real ways to reach those who are outside a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, especially in their own community. Raising money for foreign missions is admirable and needed, but how can we light a light in our own community in Jesus' name? Women had great intuition as to the needs in our families and the communities. Look at ways of filling those needs and reaching people for Jesus.

- Be faithful and have a clear mandate.

- Make a concerted effort to listen to younger women. This survey is great, but must be acted upon and opinions not judged. Less formality and more hands-on mission service will appeal to a new generation. A recognition of the changing lifestyle (atain without judging it) must be part of the process.

- My ladies do a great job!

